

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-10 L-03 SS-15 /043 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:RDRISCOLL:NG

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:RVFIMBRES

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O 131730Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, USUN, CI

SUBJECT: U.S. AMNESTY PROPOSAL AND CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 7675

1. THE WIRELESS FILE NOV 13 CARRIES A SUMMARY OF
AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S REMARKS. THE REFERENCE IS ARF-78,
NOV 13, SKED.2.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THOSE REMARKS MADE BY AMBASSADOR
MOYNIHAN WHICH REFERRED TO CHILE:

"...IS THAT THERE IS MORE PRESS FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA
THAN IN THE REST OF AFRICA PUT TOGETHER.

AND WHAT OF CHILE, A TROUBLED LAND, WHERE AT LEAST ONE
ESTIMATE STATES THAT THERE ARE SOME FIVE THOUSAND POLITICAL
PRISONERS, AND WHICH IS RATED 'PARTLY FREE' BY THE FREEDOM
HOUSE COMPARATIVE SURVEY?

ONE OF THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION:
'DEPLORES THE REFUSAL OF THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW
THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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TO VISIT THE COUNTRY, NOTWITHSTANDING PREVIOUS SOLEMN

ASSURANCES....'.

THIS IS TRUE. BUT IT IS ONLY PART OF THE TRUTH. THE WHOLE TRUTH WOULD INCLUDE THE FACT THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WERE PERMITTED TO VISIT CHILE. MOREOVER, IF THE VISIT OF THE WORKING GROUP HAD GONE THROUGH, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THAT ANY GOVERNMENT HAD PERMITTED SUCH A VISIT.

ARE WE NOT FORCED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE POINT MADE RECENTLY BY MR. ROBERT MOSS, THE EDITOR OF THE (LONDON) ECONOMIST'S FOREIGN REPORT:

'IF THE MILITARY REGIME IN CHILE, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF ALL SELF-RESPECTING COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARIES, HAD FLATLY DECIDED TO SHUT OUT ALL FOREIGN REPORTERS, (AND) CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATORS, FOR A PERIOD OF, SAY, SIX MONTHS AFTER THE COUP, OUR DIET OF HORROR STORIES FROM CHILE WOULD HAVE BEEN MEAGER INDEED.'

AND ARE WE NOT FORCED TO TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT OF MILTON FRIEDMAN, THE DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIST WHO RECENTLY VISITED CHILE:

'ON THE ATMOSPHERE IN CHILE, IT IS PERHAPS NOT IRRELEVANT THAT AT TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE, I GAVE TALKS ON "THE FRAGILITY OF FREEDOM," IN WHICH I EXPLICITLY CHARACTERIZED THE EXISTING REGIME AS UNFREE, TALKED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF MAINTAINING A FREE SOCIETY, THE ROLE OF FREE MARKETS AND FREE ENTERPRISE IN DOING SO, AND THE URGENCY OF ESTABLISHING THOSE PRECONDITIONS FOR FREEDOM. THERE WAS NO ADVANCE OR EX POST CENSORSHIP, THE AUDIENCES WERE LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC, AND I RECEIVED NO SUBSEQUENT CRITICISM.'

IT IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT TO BE ACCUSATORY OR TO AROUSE ILL FEELING. BUT IS IT NOT THE CASE THAT THIS YEAR HAS SEEN ANY NUMBER OF REGIMES COMPLETELY OR ALMOST COMPLETELY SEAL OFF THEIR COUNTRIES, BARRING OR EXPELLING FOREIGN NEWSMEN, SUCH THAT AT MOST RUMOR REACHES THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON INSIDE?
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SIMPLE JUSTICE REQUIRES THAT THE UNITED STATES, FOR ONE, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WHILE WE HAVE SUPPORTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS CRITICAL OF REPRESSIVE PRACTICES OF THE GOVERNMENTS BOTH OF SOUTH AFRICA AND CHILE AT THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WE HAVE DONE SO IN THE COMPANY OF NATIONS WHOSE OWN INTERNAL CONDITIONS ARE AS REPRESSIVE OR MORE SO.

AND WHAT OF ISRAEL, A COUNTRY RATED FREE BY FREEDOM HOUSE,
WITH HIGH IF NOT PERFECT SCORES IN POLITICAL RIGHTS AND

CIVIL RIGHTS? IS IT NOT ENOUGH TO SAY THAT MUCH OF THE
CASE BEING MADE AGAINST ISRAEL BY OTHER NATIONS TODAY, IS
MADE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE FULLY LEGAL OPPOSITION
PARTIES WITHIN ISRAEL, INCLUDING ARAB-BASED PARTIES, MANY
OF WHICH HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN ELECTING MEMBERS TO
PUBLIC OFFICE, AND THAT THIS OPPOSITION IS GIVEN NOTABLE
EXPRESSION IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS IN ISRAEL, WHICH
HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE FREEST ARAB-LANGUAGE PRESS IN
THE WORLD?." KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE269075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RDRISCOLL:NG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750395-0871
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751149/aaaabrta.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SANTIAGO 7675
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. AMNESTY PROPOSAL AND CHILE
TAGS: PFOR, US, CI, UN
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006